Washington State Family Policy Council CITIZENS' GUIDE TO WASHINGTON STATE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET SETTING PROCESS



GOVERNMENT PROCESS (CITIZENS MAY NOT SEE THIS)

Members of the Governor's Cabinet provide information to the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

OFM convenes Priorities of Governmnt (POG) committees to hear about programs.

Governor prepares budget, relying on:

Policy Advice from OFM & Agency input Citizen input

> November Revenue **Forecast**

Promised policy priorities

Legislature convenes.

The House & Senate each prepare a budget with input from policy & budget committees (required by Constitution).

March Revenue Forecast considered.

Conference committee forms to work out differences among the 3 proposed budgets.

Conference budget goes to floor & is debated.

Amendments are offered on the floor.

Legislature's budget delivered to Governor.

Governor's policy advisors offer advice on whether to sign each section.

Governor may veto any section of the budget & will offer a message to explain.

Governor's cabinet members make decisions on how to implement and manage the budget.



ROLE (IF THEY **CHOOSE TO** PARTICIPATE)

Share community results with elected & appointed officials/staff.

Build relationships with candidates & elected officials.

Participate in public forums.

Offer the Governor feedback on the consequences of the policy advisors' advice.

Public dialogue; for example, letters to the editor.

Participate in public forums.

Share results of community efforts with legislators. budget committee members & policy committee members/staff.

> Participate in public hearings.

Educate conference committee members. budget committee members & caucus leaders

> Participate in public hearings.

Ask for floor amendment, if needed.

Last possibility of cut. It's no longer possible to be added to the budget.

Provide information & reaction to Governor if veto seems likely.

Engage in public dialogue if veto is being considered.

UP TO 20 DAYS

DELIVERED

Report to agency officials on results of community efforts.

Build relationships & partner with agency personnel.

Build relationships with elected officials.



WHAT CITIZENS SEE **MID-NOVEMBER**

GOVERNOR RECEIVES ADVICE FROM POLICY ADVISORS TO GUIDE BUDGET PROPOSAL

MID-DECEMBER

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ANNOUNCED (REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTION) FEBRUARY - MARCH

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS & SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE BUDGETS ANNOUNCED

MARCH

CONFERENCING & DEBATE RESULT IN PASSAGE OF LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

AFTER BUDGET PASSES. **GOVERNOR SIGNS BUDGET INTO LAW VETO MESSAGES**

BUDGET (AS SIGNED) IS **ENACTED ON JULY 1**



HOW CITIZENS RESPOND TO WHAT THEY SEE



Citizens enhance policy advice by offering community perspective.

Citizens offer their honest opinions about the value & consequence of the advice the governor has received.

Response is quick, to assure the Governor has the opportunity to consider citizen feedback in the Governor's budget proposal.

Citizens express their genuine feelings regarding the budget to the Governor's office; for example, sending a thank you for a preferred decision.

When citizens disagree with the Governor, they may also offer facts & information to convey their perspective, which is typically bundled into themes by policy advisors.

Citizens share information with their legislators.

Citizens meet with their own representatives & committee leaders to explain their interests & concerns.

Citizens offer their honest opinion about the value & consequences of proposed budgets. Input can be personal, written, by phone or at public hearings.

Response to budgets is quick (hearings often occur the day the budget is released).

Citizens inform committee & caucus leaders, highlighting the consequences of proposed legislative actions/budget.

Citizens thank their own legislators, champions, policy & budget committee members for favorable budget items.

Any changes will occur in floor debate: citizens request floor amendments from champions as soon as conference budget is announced.

If a cut has been made, it is no longer possible to get funds restored in this budget cycle. Requests for a restoration are unhelpful.

If a veto is being considered, citizens express their genuine feelings to the Governor's office.

If the budget is favorable, citizens express appreciation to the Governor, legislators & other elected officials.

Citizens work year-round with legislators, the Governor & agency leaders to let them know what's working.

Citizens gather & share information on how investments are making a difference & creating results.

Citizens share information on the investments & the results with the public.